

6. A NOTE ON AGE OF SEXUAL MATURITY OF TWO SPECIES OF ANTELOPES IN CAPTIVITY

This communication deals with the age of sexual maturity of the female of two species of antelopes observed at Nandankanan Biological Park (Orissa).

1. **Blackbuck** (*Antilope cervicapra*)

A female blackbuck born at the Park on 25.ix.1969 gave birth to a young for the first time on 20.ii.1972 at the age of 2 years, 4 months and 27 days. Another female blackbuck born at the Park on 20.i.1970 gave birth to a young for the first time on 22.ii.1972 at the age of 2 years, 1 month and 3 days. These females were kept along with adult males throughout this period. Taking the gestation period as about 6 months (Asdell, 1964: PATTERNS OF MAMMALIAN REPRODUCTION, pp. 617), the age of sexual maturity of these animals can be said to be not more than 1 year, 10 months and 27 days or 1 year and 11 months and 1 year, 7 months and 3 days or 1 year and 7 months respectively.

There is no mention of age of sexual maturity of this species in the available literature.

2. **Nilgai** (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*)

A female nilgai born here on 13.iii.1968 gave birth to a dead male young for the first time on 1.iv.1971 at the age of 3 years and 20 days. This female had remained with adult males throughout this period. Taking the gestation period as 8 months and 7 days (Asdell, loc. cit.) the age of sexual maturity of this female can be said to be not more than 2 years, 4 months and 13 days or say 2 years and 4 months.

Acharjyo & Misra (1971: *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 68 (2): 446) have given the age of sexual maturity of one female nilgai as 2 years and 1 month.

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July 29, 1972.

7. OCCURRENCE OF THE COMMON GREY HORNBILL (*TOCKUS BIROSTRIS*) IN BOMBAY CITY

On the afternoon of the 7th April 1973 we saw, while on a visit to the wooded environs of the Raj Bhavan at Bombay, a pair of the